

**WILLIAMSBURG CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
AUGUST 11, 2008**

The Williamsburg City Council held a work session on Monday, August 11, 2008, at 4:00 p.m., in the City Council Chambers of the Stryker Building.

ATTENDANCE

Present were Ms. Zeidler and Ms. Knudson, Messrs. Haulman, Freiling, and Braxton. Also present were City Manager Tuttle, City Attorney Phillips, and City Clerk Crist. Staff Attending: Assistant City Manager Miller, Assistant City Attorney Workman, Economic Development Director DeWitt, and Department Heads Walentisch and Nester.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Zeidler called the meeting to order.

Public Comment: Items for City Council Meeting of August 14, 2008

Mayor Zeidler asked for public comment regarding the regular meeting or on any subject.

Gary Shelly, 205 Indian Springs Road, addressed Council about the property located at 110 Harrison Avenue. The Housing Authority is asking \$385,000 for the house, which would result in a loss to taxpayers in the amount of \$89,000. The document that he recently received from the city indicating the percentage of property rentals in the area was not accurate, and was another reason Council should have invited public comment about this purchase. The way this transaction was handled has caused mistrust in the community. Transparency in government is essential to ensuring the trust of citizens. Council should take responsibility for its actions regarding this property. The property is now a symbol of shame. Council should take back the property and manage it for its best possible use—affordable housing. He hoped that the new director of the WRHA understands the housing interests in this community and has the courage to renounce the Council if it again interferes in his department for political purposes.

Mayor Zeidler thanked Mr. Shelly for his comments.

BACKGROUND PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION

Youth Achievement Program—Recognition

Peter Walentisch, Human Services Director

Mr. Walentisch said that the Summer Youth Program was started in 1994, and is in its fourteenth year. He recognized the program staff members: Adam Finefrock (Director) Kelly Creed, DeVita Love, Natalie Minkins, Gregory Maliniak, and Melissa Robinson. The participants of the program were present and three young people addressed Council about their program experience.

Lanika Cowles, 14, thanked Council for the program. She learned lifelong lessons, teamwork, character building, and enjoyed the Friday field trips to places like the Science Museum, Busch Gardens, the Virginia Beach Aquarium, and she made lasting friendships.

Jose Angel Ramos, 16, was in his third year of the program. He learned how to take control in situations, learned how to control his temper and handle situations, and how to set goals.

Satori Isaiah, 13, learned the three R's: Respect, Responsibility, and Role Modeling. She appreciated learning about proper behavior, leadership, and how to handle accomplishments and failures. She thanked Council for the opportunity to be part of this program.

The Mayor said Council is very proud of the program and thanked the students for their work and participation.

The Mayor recognized Mrs. Helen McConnell in the audience and noted that former Mayor Trist McConnell helped to make this program possible.

Council members appreciated the work of the students and were pleased to hear about their experiences. The program's staff members and departmental staff were thanked for their work.

Mayor Zeidler appreciated the invitation for Council to join the students at their August 15 graduation at the Community Building. The students gave Council members a round of applause.

Hampton Roads MPO-Transportation Update, Dwight Farmer, Executive Director/Secretary, HRPDC-MPO

Mr. Tuttle said that Mr. Farmer was last at a Council meeting in March of 2006. He returns to provide an update on the changes that have occurred since that time and the direction that the MPO is taking.

Mr. Farmer provided Council with a copy of his presentation materials. He briefly reviewed the core functions of the Metropolitan Planning Organization. He gave a status report on the Six Major Regional Projects. A seventh project, the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel Expansion has been added.

Mr. Farmer reviewed the slide showing "Long Range Plan Congestion" and costs, and noted that even with the planned projects completed by 2030, congestion will increase. The 2030 Plan has been frozen at this time to determine what the 2009 General Assembly will do. It may be necessary to develop a 2030 Plan B.

Mr. Farmer explained that the projects depend on the ability to toll roads and the bridge/tunnel. More importantly, in order for the plan to work, State and local elected officials must come together, and there must be a grassroots public awareness education campaign. A "Transit Vision Plan for Hampton Roads" is being developed and should be completed in early 2009. The Mayors and Chairs will discuss more immediate solutions to enhance transit service.

Mr. Farmer thanked Council for its support and partnership.

Council members and Mr. Farmer discussed:

- Financial feasibility of the projects.
- Tolls and toll rates on existing roads.
- Public-Private Partnerships.
- The impact on the Hampton Roads economy if the projects are not built.
- The capacity of the HRT and Monitor Merrimac.
- Route 64 design capacity and VDOT's plans for an additional lane in both directions. The improvements on 64 between Williamsburg and Richmond were in the distant future, as many as 20 years.
- Impact on Hampton Roads ports. New distribution centers have developed to move goods in and out of this area.
- Rail travel and traffic congestion.
- Capacity and congestion.

Mayor Zeidler said that this is a complicated matter. For Williamsburg, it is important that our visitors be able to get here. Improved rail would help, but we need an improved highway system. There are many implications for our local economy.

Mr. Farmer said VDOT forecasts that Federal funding will get more competitive and request more state and local matching funds. Maintaining our roadways will become even more difficult because of rising costs, and could be in crisis in another five years.

William & Mary Student Outreach Activities

Jodi Miller, Assistant City Manager & Kaitlin Keller, Management Intern

Ms. Miller reviewed the fall activities that are being planned to welcome William and Mary students. In addition to the neighborhood block parties on September 8 and 9, the city will sponsor a free concert at Lake Matoaka, place "Welcome Students" signs around town and at entrance corridors, and launch a "Facebook" page. Ms. Miller introduced Kaitlin Keller, a William and Mary Public Policy Graduate Student and intern with the City Manager's Office, and the creator of the city's "Facebook" page.

Ms. Keller defined "Facebook," how it is used, and who uses it. She opened the page on the Internet and explained how students might use the information available. Ms. Miller added that the FB page would draw on the strengths of the city's new website. She complimented Ms. Keller for her incredible work on the FB page.

Mayor Zeidler thanked Ms. Miller and Ms. Keller for their work and new ideas to welcome students. Mr. Haulman commented that "Facebook" is a great communications tool. Ms. Miller said that the new Communications Specialist will administer the page. Mr. Freiling made suggestions to improve the page regarding becoming a fan and linking with the students through e-mail.

Final Report on 2007/2008 Biennial Goals and Initiatives

Reference for this item was the final status report for the *2007/2008 Goals and Initiatives*. Mr. Tuttle said that of the 78 initiatives included in the report, all show progress, and many are labeled "completed." At the August 14 meeting, public comment will be received about the goals for the next two year cycle and there will be other opportunities for public input. Starting with the current 2008-09 budget, the "Goals & Initiatives" were expanded to *Goals, Initiatives and Outcomes*.

Mayor Zeidler thanked Mr. Tuttle for the report and noted that outcomes and observed results will provide another level of accountability and another benchmark.

Mr. Freiling emphasized the way the goals and initiatives, and desired outcomes, interweaves with the city's budget process.

CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

Nothing to report.

Schedule of Meetings: August 2008

Council members received the monthly meeting calendar. Mr. Tuttle noted that the City Council Retreat will be held on Saturday, August 23.

OPEN FORUM

Mr. Terance Wehle, Harriett Tubman Drive, commented about the August 14 agenda item #PCR 06-038. He supported continued public input about government initiated public buildings. As he understood the proposal, there could be unintended consequences and for the development of certain city property, there would be no public input. Regarding the proposed Emergency Operations Center, Mr. Wehle asked that Council consider a different location or reduce the size of the addition to the Fire Station so that it does not impact parking at the Transportation Center.

No one else wished to speak. The session was closed.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Haulman Moved That City Council go into closed session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of discussion one personnel matter per subparagraph 1 concerning appointments to boards and commissions. The Motion Was Seconded by Mr. Freiling.

Recorded Vote on the Motion:

Aye: Freiling, Braxton, Zeidler, Haulman, Knudson

No: None

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m. The Mayor called a five-minute recess.

OPEN SESSION

At 6:00 p.m., Council met in Open Session.

Mr. Haulman Moved the Certification of Closed Meeting. The Motion was Seconded by Mr. Freiling.

Recorded Vote on the Motion:

Aye: Freiling, Braxton, Zeidler, Haulman, Knudson

No: None

Certification of Closed Meeting

Date: August 11, 2008

Motion: Mr. Haulman Second: Mr. Freiling

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Williamsburg has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the City Council that such meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia Law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Williamsburg hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed session were heard, discussed or considered by the City of Williamsburg.

VOTE:

Aye: Freiling, Braxton, Zeidler, Haulman, Knudson

No: None

Absent During Vote: None

Absent During Meeting: None

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Approved: September 11, 2008

Jeanne Zeidler
Mayor

Shelia Y. Crist, MMC
Clerk of Council